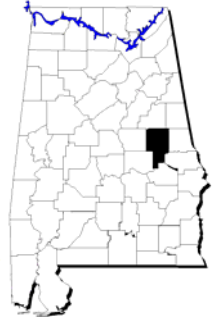


TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

Honorable Clayton Kim Taylor

Tallapoosa County Courthouse
125 North Broadnax
Dadeville, AL 36853
(256) 825-1086



E. Paul Jones
Betty Carole Graham
Ted Little
Jimmy Abbett
Marsha Hanks
Jean Spicer
Frd Gray
Ginger Brannon
Mary Browning
Doris Harrell
Glen McGee
Tommy Bice
Ginger East
Antoinette Robinson
Annette McGrady
Angela Hill
Barbara Young
Bill Hough
Brett Pritchard
Carlyn Tucker-Simmons
Cathy Skarecky

Chuck Ledbetter
Cindy Railey
Dave Gallew
David Boleware
Jennifer Baker
Debra Easterwood
Doris Harrell
Eddie B. Tolbert
Glenn Thomas
James Orr
Janis Abney
Joe McClellan
Joe Paul Boone
John Ferguson
John Stephenson
Stanley Johnson
C.K. Taylor
Karen Cogan
Kenny Sherrer
Lonnie Harden
Luanne Wagner

Luanne White
Lynn Sides
Marilyn Lewis
Mary Browning
Melanie Sharpton
Peggy Bullard
Randal Willis
Raphelia Forbus
Renee Jackson
Robert Watson
Sandra Harris
Tammy Templeton
Terrell Haggerty
Tiffany Keel
Tim Birt
Tracey Guidry
Mary Tremelling
Wayne Cowhick

Council Priorities

1. Dental Services for children and youth who cannot afford dental work.

A student cannot learn when they have the toothache and no public health dental care available.

2. Quality education for all children

Not all children attend Day Care, Learning Centers, or Kindergarten so when they enter first grade they are lost and many cannot catch up.

3. Transportation for after-school programs or Family Service Centers.

Most rural counties do not have public transportation which limits many communities not having After-School Programs or Family Service Centers.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Parental awareness of early care and educational needs of children ages 0-5

Action Steps

- 1) Provide information packets to hospitals and Child Care Centers.

School readiness

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage all Day Care & Learning Centers to provide State approved readiness curriculum for children as provided by State School Readiness Program.

Reading initiative

Action Steps

- 1) Implement Dollywood's Imagination Library in all Day Care Centers and make books available to children ages 2, 3, 4 in Tallapoosa County.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Increasing job training and job placement in Tallapoosa County

Action Steps

- 1) Coordinate with Career Link at CACC.
- 2) Coordinate with Schools on Career Days.

Promoting Central Alabama Community College (CACC) Vocational and Professional training available at CACC

Action Steps

- 1) Promoting courses at Betty Carol Graham Tech Center in Technical Education and available to all students in the county.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Every child in Tallapoosa County has access to a quality education

Action Steps

- 1) Work with School Boards and staff to improve state standards in City and County Schools.

Implement countywide book drive to replace library books lost in Edward Bell School Fire

Action Steps

- 1) Partner with other organizations to replace books at Edward Bell School.

Decrease school drop-out rate

Action Steps

- 1) Decrease drop-out rate by 5%.
- 2) Continue to work with schools on dropout strategies.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Removing barriers to improve access to healthcare

Action Steps

- 1) Pursue grant opportunities to provide materials for children and families.

Teen pregnancy prevention

Action Steps

- 1) Supporting prevention programs in the school system.
- 2) Providing awareness through media and dissemination of facts and information.
- 3) Programs are currently in both City and County Schools.

Getting a dental care facility in Tallapoosa/Coosa County area

Action Steps

- 1) Working with Coosa County to get facility either in Coosa County or upper Tallapoosa County for use by both counties.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Increase parental knowledge of activities involving their children

Action Steps

- 1) Disperse information through Child Care facilities.

Child safety

Action Steps

- 1) Provide brochure listing the licensed Day Care Centers in Tallapoosa County and Medical Facilities.

Teen safety

Action Steps

- 1) Sponsoring programs for parents concerning their teen's safety on the Internet.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Youth and violence

Action Steps

- 1) Implementing anti-violence programs in the schools.
- 2) Determine the Hot-Spots in county where violence takes place. In schools, in neighborhoods, and communities.

School safety

Action Steps

- 1) Update School Safety Plans and collaborate with schools and community to keep schools safe and community safe.

Underage smoking, drinking and drug abuse

Action Steps

- 1) Collaborate with local convenience stores and put posters, signs and other materials in stores to remind youth they cannot buy alcohol, cigarettes, etc unless they are of age.

Policy Recommendations

- Provide local funding to agencies to work with obesity in children.
- Increase funding to local agencies for Teen Pregnancy Prevention.
- Campaign to lower school dropouts.
- Provide local funding for CPC's to work with local Law Enforcement in deter underage smoking, drinking and drug abuse.

Accomplishments

The Tallapoosa County Children's Policy Council has been very active this year. We have set goals and objectives and have met most of them. The ones we have not met we are carrying over into 2006-2007.

Health Committee

- We are still getting request for the "It's Your Life" video which relates to teen pregnancy that the media at BRHS researched, wrote and produced. This was teens talking to teens. We have sent over 200 copies, not only in Alabama but a few other states also. We really appreciate the interest this has received.
- We have also written and received two grants, both for \$1,000. W has used the funds to purchase workbooks for "Choosing the Best" This too is a teen pregnancy course that we are sponsoring in every school in Tallapoosa County from 6th-9th grade. We plan to continue this project this year one of our members, Sharon Moore, who is the SAV-A-Life in Alexander City has volunteered to be the facilitator for this program.

Safety Committee

- This past May, the Safety committee hosted a Safety Day at the Alexander City Middle School. The Alexander City Police Department and member of the Tallapoosa County Sheriff's Department reached every student in the school and each had a turn of driving the golf carts through a maze while wearing the drug and alcohol goggles. This was quite an event for these students. The same took place in two of the county schools and we plan to reach the other school this year. Where does time go?
- We are also planning on contracting with the BRHS Media Team again and doing a video on water safety. The Marine Police have asked us to partner with them for this project.
- Our Investigator, who is with the Sheriff's Department and is a member of the State and Federal Task Force for internet crimes, (predators) has given much of his free time in conducting the program for parents and teachers to know what is happening with our children on the internet.

Early Care and Education Committee

- This Committee is working hard to get the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in every daycare in Tallapoosa County. Russell Medical Center has this for newborns who live in the 35010 zip code.
- We also joined the Alabama Partnership for Children in sponsoring the Week of the Child. The local Daycare Centers hung posters of handprints in City hall and in the County Courthouse. Many citizens enjoyed these posters and sent wonderful messages to the CPC and the Day Care Centers. We plan to participate again next year. We also did some PSA's on the radio and local TV.

Economic Development

- The economic development is doing a good job. They have coordinated Career days with the Community College and we have a good working relationship with the college. This past year they have worked hard to let the high school students know what is available at the Community College. Mike Mann, over the technology Department at CACC has been a very valued leader for us to get the word out to the schools and students.

Parental Involvement Committee

- This is our weakest committee. We have been responsible for sponsoring the Internet Programs for parents. We have tried to get the parents more involved with the programs. Most of our parents work and with the loss jobs in our area, the parents are having to travel to other counties for employment. If anyone has any suggestions we would love have them get the parents more involved.